

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. An arteriostenosis inspecting apparatus, comprising:
 - an inflatable cuff which is adapted to be worn on an ankle of a living subject;
 - a cuff-pressure changing device which decreases a pressure in the cuff from a pressure higher than a systolic blood pressure of the ankle;
 - a distal-pulse-wave detecting device which is adapted to be worn on a distal portion of the subject that is located on a distal side of the ankle and detects a distal pulse wave produced from the distal portion;
 - an increasing-point detecting means for detecting at least one increasing point where a magnitude of the distal pulse wave continuously detected by the distal-pulse-wave detecting device when the pressure of the cuff is decreased by the cuff-pressure changing device, significantly increases; and
 - an arteriostenosis judging means for judging that the subject has arteriostenosis, based on a fact that the increasing-point detecting means detects the second increasing point.
2. An arteriostenosis inspecting apparatus, comprising:
 - an inflatable cuff which is adapted to be worn on an ankle of a living subject;
 - a cuff-pressure changing device which decreases a pressure in the cuff from a pressure higher than a systolic blood pressure of the ankle;

a distal-pulse-wave detecting device which is adapted to be worn on a distal portion of the subject that is located on a distal side of the ankle and detects a distal pulse wave produced from the distal portion; and

a display device which displays the distal pulse wave continuously detected by the distal-pulse-wave detecting device when the pressure of the cuff is decreased by the cuff-pressure changing device.

3. An arteriostenosis inspecting apparatus, comprising:

an inflatable cuff which is adapted to be worn on an ankle of a living subject;

a cuff-pressure changing device which changes a pressure in the cuff;

an ankle-pulse-wave detecting device which detects an ankle pulse wave produced from the ankle and transmitted to the cuff;

a distal-pulse-wave detecting device which is adapted to be worn on a distal portion of the subject that is located on a distal side of the ankle and detects a distal pulse wave produced from the distal portion;

an amplitude-difference-value determining means for determining an amplitude difference value indicating a degree of difference between respective amplitudes of respective heartbeat-synchronous pulses of the ankle pulse wave and the distal pulse wave that are detected by the ankle-pulse-wave detecting device and the distal-pulse-wave detecting device,

respectively, in a state in which the pressure of the cuff is made lower than a systolic blood pressure of the ankle by the cuff-pressure changing device; and

an arteriostenosis judging means for judging that the subject has arteriostenosis, based on a fact that the amplitude difference value determined by the amplitude-difference-value determining means is greater than a reference value.

4. An arteriostenosis inspecting apparatus, comprising:

an inflatable cuff which is adapted to be worn on an ankle of a living subject;

a cuff-pressure changing device which changes a pressure in the cuff;

an ankle-pulse-wave detecting device which detects an ankle pulse wave produced from the ankle and transmitted to the cuff;

a distal-pulse-wave detecting device which is adapted to be worn on a distal portion of the subject that is located on a distal side of the ankle and detects a distal pulse wave produced from the distal portion;

a phase-difference determining means for determining a difference of respective phases of respective heartbeat-synchronous pulses of the ankle pulse wave and the distal pulse wave that are detected by the ankle-pulse-wave detecting device and the distal-pulse-wave detecting device, respectively, in a state in which the pressure of the cuff is made lower than a systolic blood pressure of the ankle by the cuff-

pressure changing device; and

an arteriostenosis judging means for judging that the subject has arteriostenosis, based on a fact that the phase difference determined by the phase-difference determining means is greater than a reference value.

5. An arteriostenosis inspecting apparatus, comprising:

an inflatable cuff which is adapted to be worn on an ankle of a living subject;

a cuff-pressure changing device which decreases a pressure in the cuff from a pressure higher than a systolic blood pressure of the ankle;

a distal-pulse-wave detecting device which is adapted to be worn on a distal portion of the subject that is located on a distal side of the ankle and detects a distal pulse wave produced from the distal portion;

an increasing-point detecting device which detects at least one increasing point where a magnitude of the distal pulse wave continuously detected by the distal-pulse-wave detecting device when the pressure of the cuff is decreased by the cuff-pressure changing device, significantly increases; and

an arteriostenosis judging device which judges that the subject has arteriostenosis, based on a fact that the increasing-point detecting device detects the second increasing point.

6. An arteriostenosis inspecting apparatus, comprising:

an inflatable cuff which is adapted to be worn on an ankle of a living subject;

a cuff-pressure changing device which changes a pressure in the cuff;

an ankle-pulse-wave detecting device which detects an ankle pulse wave produced from the ankle and transmitted to the cuff;

a distal-pulse-wave detecting device which is adapted to be worn on a distal portion of the subject that is located on a distal side of the ankle and detects a distal pulse wave produced from the distal portion;

an amplitude-difference-value determining device which determines an amplitude difference value indicating a degree of difference between respective amplitudes of respective heartbeat-synchronous pulses of the ankle pulse wave and the distal pulse wave that are detected by the ankle-pulse-wave detecting device and the distal-pulse-wave detecting device, respectively, in a state in which the pressure of the cuff is made lower than a systolic blood pressure of the ankle by the cuff-pressure changing device; and

an arteriostenosis judging device which judges that the subject has arteriostenosis, based on a fact that the amplitude difference value determined by the amplitude-difference-value determining device is greater than a reference value.

7. An arteriostenosis inspecting apparatus, comprising:

an inflatable cuff which is adapted to be worn on an ankle of a living subject;

a cuff-pressure changing device which changes a pressure in the cuff;

an ankle-pulse-wave detecting device which detects an ankle pulse wave produced from the ankle and transmitted to the cuff;

a distal-pulse-wave detecting device which is adapted to be worn on a distal portion of the subject that is located on a distal side of the ankle and detects a distal pulse wave produced from the distal portion;

a phase-difference determining device which determines a difference of respective phases of respective heartbeat-synchronous pulses of the ankle pulse wave and the distal pulse wave that are detected by the ankle-pulse-wave detecting device and the distal-pulse-wave detecting device, respectively, in a state in which the pressure of the cuff is made lower than a systolic blood pressure of the ankle by the cuff-pressure changing device; and

an arteriostenosis judging device which judges that the subject has arteriostenosis, based on a fact that the phase difference determined by the phase-difference determining device is greater than a reference value.